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Control and treatment of Kala-Azar.

* 119 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the second leading article under the caption ' Control of Kala-Azar ' in the *Mail*, dated 7th May 1954, and if not, whether the Government will be pleased to state—

(*a*) the methods adopted by the Government in the City of Madras for controlling and treating Kala-Azar;

(*b*) how widely Kala-Azar is prevalent in the City; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to include Kala-Azar in the list of notifiable diseases under section 62 of the Public Health Act?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (1) Yes, Sir.

" (2) (*a*) *to* (*c*) Do not arise."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" How long have the Public Health authorities been investigating this disease of Kala-Azar? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In Madras City? "

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Not only in the City but also in Kaveripatnam and other areas. They have been investigating into the causes of this disease for ages spending considerable sums of money."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, Kala-Azar occurs in the State in Madras City and in Ramanathapuram district. Only recently the study of the prevalence, treatment and control of the disease has been taken up seriously in Ramanathapuram district. An entomological unit of the Public Health Department is carrying on comprehensive investigation and instituting control measures by residual D.D.T. spraying in selected endemic villages. A mobile medical unit of the Medical department is also working with this unit, treating Kala-Azar cases.

Control of Kala-Azar in the City is primarily the responsibility of the Corporation of Madras, but only now the Corporation is attempting to do some preliminary clinical and survey work.

The Research Health Officer of the State Public Health Department has conducted a sand fly survey of the City from November 1951 to October 1952. He has also collected statistics of Kala-Azar cases treated in the City medical institutions. These statistics show that the disease is endemic in the City, cases being reported from Georgetown, Rayapuram, Tondiarpet, Washermanpet, Park Town, Perambur, Choolai, Purasawalkam, Egmore, Pudupet, Chintadripet, Triplicane, Royapetta, Gopalapuram, Alwarpet and North Mylapore. The Director of Public Health has been asked to communicate to the Commissioner of the Corporation of

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Madras the report on the sand fly survey of the City conducted by the Research Health Officer, the statistics of Kala-Azar cases treated in the City medical institutions and the experimental studies on Kala-Azar carried out in Ramanathapuram district to help the Corporation evolve a scheme for the control of the disease."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Has the Hon. Minister received any report as a result of the investigation of the Public Health Department about this disease which is spreading rapidly over the State. Since the scare days of 1942 it has migrated from endemic areas to non-endemic areas."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the Government have received reports."

Reasons for the creation of cadres of municipal and district board health officers.

* 120 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state when the cadres of municipal and district board health officers were created and the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" How does the Hon. Minister reconcile the mortality figures with the census report? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not see the relevancy of this question."

Purchase of rice from Andhra State by the Madras Government.

* 121 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have purchased rice from Andhra State, and if so, the total quantity purchased up to 31st March 1954 and at what prices?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes Sir. The total quantity of rice purchased from the Andhra State in the current year up to 31st March 1954 is 27,863·8 tons or 7,58,456 maunds, 33½ seers.

Out of this, a quantity of 1,98,286 maunds 15-3/8 seers of 1 *sort rice* was purchased at Rs. 15–4–9 per maund, another quantity of 11,312 maunds, 7 seers of I sort *Nellore rice* was purchased at Rs. 15–12–0 per maund and the balance quantity of 5,48,858 maunds 11-1/8 seers of II sort rice was purchased at Rs. 14–9–3 per maund."

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 421 infra.